

MAY DAY AND AFTER

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Khrushchev's statements

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____ May 1960

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"On April 9 a U.S. aircraft flew in from Afghanistan. Some of our comrades raised the question of warning the United States, for this was in contradiction to our talks with U.S. leaders. Such provocation is a bad prelude to a Summit Meeting. We discussed this question and decided to do nothing, for it usually leads to nothing. Then we instructed our military to act resolutely and stop foreign aircraft from violating our air space (loud applause).

The United States, apparently encouraged by previous incursions, crossed the Soviet frontier on May 1.

The Minister of Defense informed the Government. We said that the aircraft should be shot down...this was done. The aircraft was shot down (applause) The investigation showed that it was a U.S. plane, but it did not carry the usual markings. (shouts of indignation) It has been established that the plane flew in either from Turkey, or Iran or Pakistan. Nice neighbors!

On behalf of the Soviet Government I must tell you about acts of aggression by the U.S. against the USSR. I have in mind U.S. aircraft violating Soviet air space. In the past we protested against these violations, but the United States rejected them.

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We decided to send a severe warning that we would take the steps necessary to insure the security of our country. (Applause) I think we shall give the gravest warning to those countries which provide facilities for the United States to carry out aggression against the USSR.

Just think what would be the reaction of the United States if a Soviet plane flew over New York or Detroit. This would mean the beginning of another war. Why then do you not think that we may reply with the same measures should a foreign plane appear over our country. We think that there is no doubt in anybody's mind that we have the ability to retaliate. Of course we have no atomic bombers on patrol, but we have rockets which are more reliable than bombers.

The Governments of these countries providing facilities for the United States should realize that they may suffer as a consequence. US violation of our air space is a dangerous sign. We are going to raise this point in the Security Council. It is difficult to comprehend such an attitude in view of the forthcoming Summit Meeting. What was it: A congratulation on May Day? No, they hoped that their aircraft would fly in with impunity and get back. It seems that the U.S. aggressive forces have of late been making every effort to thwart the Summit Meeting. Who sent the aircraft? If this was done by the U.S. military on their own bat, this must alarm world public opinion."

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